

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)

6. (New) A method of forming an intermittent layer of a fluidized substance on a surface of a sheet member moving in one direction, comprising:

folding first parts of said moving sheet member inwardly, away from said surface, second parts of said sheet member being formed between said first parts and remaining on said surface adjacent to each other;

continuously supplying said fluidized substance from a laying means onto said surface of adjacent second parts of said sheet member forming a layer;

unfolding said first parts of said sheet member and returning said first parts to said surface, causing said layer to be separated into a plurality of layer sections, said first parts of said sheet member forming non-layer portions between said layer sections.

7. (New) An apparatus for forming an intermittent layer of a fluidized substance on a surface of a sheet member moving in one direction, comprising:

folding means for folding first parts of said sheet member

inwardly away from said surface, second parts of said sheet member being formed between said first parts, and remaining on said surface adjacent to each other;

laying means disposed downstream from said folding means for continuously laying said fluidized substance onto said surface of adjacent second parts of said sheet member; and

unfolding means disposed downstream of said laying means for unfolding said first parts of said sheet member and returning said first parts to said surface, causing said layer to be separated into layer segments, said first parts forming non-layer portions between said layer segments.

8. (New) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising cutting means disposed between said laying means and said unfolding means for cutting said layer of fluidized substance at locations above said inwardly folded first parts of said sheet member.

9. (New) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said folding means includes a plurality of grooves extending in a direction transverse to said moving direction, and a plurality of insert members moving at the same speed as said grooves and inserted into said grooves by an upstream side roll member; and

wherein said grooves have an enlarged opening width upstream of said upstream side roll member which is reduced as said grooves pass said upstream side roll member, and

wherein said insert members are inserted into said grooves while holding said sheet member, so that said first parts of said sheet member are folded inwardly into said grooves.

10. (New) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said folding means further includes a means for adjusting the width of said first portion of said sheet member by changing a folding amount of said sheet member held by said insert members, said folding amount being changed by adjusting the position of said insert members when being inserted into said grooves.